

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 DRC-01 /067 W

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P 270805Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1582

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 5614

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION TOKYO INFO COMUSJAPAN, CINCPAC,  
COMFAIRWESPAC, 6921 SECURITY WING MISAWA FROM SAPPORO  
RPTD FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE CONFIDENTIAL SAPPORO 22

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJ: P-3 OPERATIONS AT MISAWA

REF: A. TOKYO 5472

B. SAPPORO 19

1. COMFAIRWESPAC'S POLITICAL ANALYSIS DRAWS UNWARRANTED  
ASSUMPTIONS BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH LONG TIME SUPPORTERS  
OF THE SECURITY TREATY AND MISAWA AIR BASE. CONSULATE SHARES  
HIGH OPINION OF KURODA AND ASANO BUT CONSIDERS THEM AS  
STRONG FRIENDS RATHER THAN AN OBJECTIVE ANALYSTS, OR AS  
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ATTITUDES OF THE COMMUNITY. IN THE  
THIRTY MAN MISAWA CITY ASSEMBLY, TWENTY FOUR MEMBERS ARE  
CONSERVATIVE. OF THAT GROUP, ASANO AND NOGVCHI COMPOSE A TWO  
MEMBER FACTION (SHOWAKAI), AND KURODA HEADS A THREE MEMBER FAC-  
TION; BOTH GROUPS ARE OPPOSED TO THE MAYOR AND THAT APPEARS  
TO TBE THE TOTALITY OF BEDROCK FACTIONAL OPPOSITION TO THE MAYOR  
AMONG THE CONSERVATIVES. SPECULATION CONCERNING WHETHER MAYOR  
COULD HAVE VNTI P-3 BILL PASSED BY CITY ASSEMBLY IS ACADEMIC  
AND LEGALISTIC; MAYOR HAS NO REASON TO DO SO SINCE IT WOULD  
REMOVE HIS FLEXIBILITY AND UNDOUBTEDLY GIVE PROGRESSIVES AND  
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RADICALS A MUCH LARGER VOICE IN PROCEEDINGS THAN THEIR PRESENT

STRENGTH WOULD WARRANT.

2. REPORTING OFFICER, DURING MISAWA AND AOMORI VISIT OF APRIL 8-10, TALKED NOT ONLY WITH THE MAYOR OF MISAWA, AND THE GOVERNOR AND VICE GOVERNOR OF AOMORI, BUT ALSO WITH THE SPEAKER OF MISAWA CITY ASSEMBLY, JASDF OFFICIALS, THE HEAD OF THE DEFENSE FACILITIES OFFICE, LEADING BUSINESSMEN, FISHING ASSOCIATION OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLISHER OF THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER, TOO NIPPO. THE GIST OF THESE TALKS CONFIRMED EARLIER RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EMBASSY BY OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT THE MOVE OF P-3S TO MISAWA AT THIS TIME WOULD CAUSE SERIOUS LOCAL PROBLEMS. THE REPORTING OFFICER SAW NOTHING TO INDICATE THAT THE MAYOR WAS ANYTHING EXCEPT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMUNITY'S FEELING THAT IT IS PAYING AN INORDINATE PRICE FOR THE EXPANSION OF BASE'S ACTIVITIES, IN TERMS OF SOUND POLLUTION, ETC., WHILE RECEIVING INADEQUATE COMPENSATION.

3. CONSULATE AGREES THAT AN EFFECTIVE ANTIBASE MOVEMENT DOES NOT NOW EXIST, NOR IS IT LIKELY THAT LARGE SCALE DEMONSTRATIONS WOULD FOLLOW A UNILATERAL TRANSFER OF THE P-3S. HOWEVER, BASED ON COMFAIRWESPAC'S EARLIER BRIEFING THAT MISAWA WAS BEST LONG TERM BET FOR P-3 OPERATIONS, AND CONSIDERING THE VALUE OF THE INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS THE AIR FORCE NOW MANAGES, THE CONSULATE ADDRESSED ITSELF TO THE DANGERS OF ACTIONS THAT MIGHT STIMULATE CREATION OF SUCH A GROUP (REF. SAPPORO'S 19). MISAWA CITY IS NOT THE ONLY CONSIDERATION; OPPOSITION ELEMENTS IN HACHINOHE, HIROSAKI AND AOMORI CITY COULD ALSO BE DRAWN INTO THE PLAY. MAYOR AND OTHER COMMUNITY LEADERS ARE NOT OPPOSED TO TRANSFER OF P-3S PER SE, THE P-3 IS NO REPEAT NO MORE THAN HOSTAGE FOR RECOMPENSE, AND IF EVENTS ARE MANAGED SKILLFULLY SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE A CONTINUING TARGET FOR OPPOSITION PROTESTS. IN THE ABSENCE OF OVERRIDING OPERATIONAL REASONS OF THE HIGHEST CONSIDERATION, THE CONSULATE IS CONVICTED THAT THE TRANSFER OF P-3S SHOULD BE DELAYED.

4. AS OUTLINED PREVIOUSLY, CONSULATE BELIEVES APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES SHOULD GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO CIVIL AIR USE OF BASE FACILITIES AS BEING IN BEST LONG TERM INTERESTS OF U.S. GOVERNMENT. THE CONSULATE IS PUZZLED BY COMFAIRWESPAC'S REFERENCE TO VICE GOVERNOR KITAMURA'S LAND HOLDINGS AROUND MISAWA.

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KITAMURA FAMILY, NATIVE OF MISAWA, HAS HAD LARGE LAND HOLDINGS FOR AT LEAST TWO GENERATIONS; VICE GOVERNOR HAS TOLD CONSULATE IN PAST THAT PART OF HIS FAMILY'S LAND HOLDINGS WERE EXPROPRIATED BY BASE, (PRESENT GOLF COURSE), AND PRESUMABLY RMFTEL REFERRED TO THE LAND HIS FAMILY HAS RETAINED. IN ANY CASE, PRESSURE FOR CIVILIAN USE NOT AT BEHEST, OR LIMITED TO, VICE GOVERNOR, AND MANY NUANCE, WHETHER ACCIDENTAL OR INTENTIONAL, THAT PRESSURE IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO SPECULATIVE DESIRE ON PART OF THE VICE

GOVERNOR IS MISLEADING. THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REQUIREMENTS  
OF AOMORI PREFECTURE ARE ADEQUATE EXPLANATIONS. ECTON UNQUOTE  
SHOESMITH

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